

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. Postal traffic between East and West Berlin had not yet been resumed on 20 June. The curfew was in effect between 10 P.M. and 4 A.M. Three traffic channels were established at noon of 19 June at Prinzen, Invaliden and Brunnen Strassen to enable East Berliners to return from the West Sector. A radio announcement by Police President Waldemar Schmidt guaranteed unhindered passage. Numerous observations made at these crossing points indicated that the crossers were immediately trucked away to collection points at schools and other buildings. As a result of the examinations made there, arrests were made at the Stalin Allee building project and the Hennigsdorf steel plant. No West Berliners have yet returned from the East Sector. A series of arrests have been made in East Berlin enterprises. Both East Berlin and the Soviet Zone are suffering from a shortage of food, especially bread.

2. On 19 June, General Superintendent Friedrich-Wilhelm Krummacher, who lives in Berlin-Weissensee, requested and received permission to visit Bishop Otto Dibelius. Supposedly, the Soviet authorities at Karlshorst had asked Krummacher to request the release of Otto Nuschke who was urgently needed for the position of Minister-President in the scheduled CDU/LDP/NDP government from which the SED was to be excluded.¹

3. On 17 June, Hermann Axen told newsmen attending a conference of the Agitation Section of the SED Central Committee that the disturbances would prompt the regime to revise its recently adopted measures of raising living standards and of striving for German unification. The government, he said, would not yield to the mob or to western agents and provocateurs who had exploited the ideological instability of numerous workers. The democratic liberties of the GDR, he continued, would be guarded and the Berlin problem would now be solved as quickly

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as possible by any possible means. He called for the elimination of West Berlin. Axen appeared hysterical with rage and voiced a number of sinister threats. Walter Ulbricht, who had been scheduled to be present, failed to make an appearance.

25X1 Comment: There are some indications that Semenov seeks support for his new course through the increased employment of the East German bourgeois parties. Previous rumors had indicated that Nuschke was to be placed in a leading position. Although it is possible that the SED may be completely dropped, no confirmation of this has yet been received. Such a course, as well as the employment of Nuschke, appear still to be doubtful.

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